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439 Present requirements for the Armed Forces for such articles as wireless, field-telephones, etc., and electrical equipment for the oil companies are imported from Germany, as are civilian requirements, though imports for the latter by no means cover the demand. Sweden and Switzerland both supply small quantities of electrical goods of various types.

B. ARMAMENTS

1. General Development

●719 Rumanian armament works were for many years badly organised and equipped. In 1936 the Government made the first serious attempt to organise the industry, and selected some eight engineering works for conversion to extensive war production, particularly of shells. Much of this and of subsequent expansion of the industry was carried out under the supervision of foreign concerns, notably Schneider, Skoda and the Ceskoslovenska Zbrojovka, who were not only responsible for equipping the Rumanian works, but also for providing technical and trained personnel.

By 1939 and 1940 a number of new factories came into production, and others either increased their output or adapted their organisation to war production. Despite this expansion, however, the present-day (1943) level of production cannot fulfil the whole of the needs of the Armed Forces, and Rumania has been forced to import war material from Germany, France, Switzerland and elsewhere.

The industry suffers from a lack of certain essential raw materials and of facilities for the production of machine tools, power units and other important engineering components, for which the Rumanians are largely dependent on their already hard-pressed Allies.

[26e]

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2. Small Arms and Mortars

The principal small arms factory is the Cugir branch of the Copşa Mica şi Cugir Company, which was developed by Zbrojovka of Brno and came into full-scale production in 1938. Apart from the small arms section, which specialises in the ZB 30 type of machine gun, there is also a small arms ammunition plant, and a branch at Copşa Mica which was designed for the production of various types and calibres of artillery and shells.

The production of trench mortars is almost entirely confined to the Voina works at Braşov, which specialises in the Brandt 60 mm. and 81 mm. types. Vulcan of Bucarest also is believed to be engaged on similar work, but on a smaller scale. The Braşov works produce mortar bombs also, but the filling is carried out at Satu-Lung.

3. Artillery Production

Artillery or artillery-component production is believed to be carried out by some five or six firms. The Astra-Vagoane works at Braşov was taken over by the Reşiţa Iron and Steel concern in 1936 for the assembly and finishing of various types, including the 37 mm. A.Tk. gun and the 75 mm. A.A. gun, the barrels being received in the rough state from Reşiţa. There are also facilities for the manufacture, assembly and (it is believed) filling, of various types and calibres of shells. Certain tank components may also be made.

The parent company at Reşiţa, in which Skoda is believed to have an interest, manufactures guns and carriages up to 150 mm. calibre and shell cases. There is an important branch at Orăştie for filling and assembling shells. The Concordia works at Ploeşti was converted by Schneider in 1939 for the production of 37 and 47 mm. A.Tk. guns in addition to various calibres of shells and cartridge cases. The Malaxa factory in Bucarest is also engaged on gun production, but is probably of more importance as a shell producer, particularly as it also possesses an important shell filling and assembly plant at Tohanul Vechiu. The branch at Brăila is believed to have been turned over to gun and shell manufacture in recent years. According to reports, both this works and that in Bucarest produce tanks or tank components.

Apart from the shell and filling plants already mentioned, both the State Pyrotechnical Institute and the State Military Arsenal in Bucarest are important shell and small arms ammunition producers. A new works at Avrig, which was still under construction in July 1941 was to be one of the leading shell-filling and assembly plants in Rumania, accounting for some 40 per cent. of the total output. There are a number of metal-works, such as Metrom and Farola of Braşov, Laromet of Bucarest and Costinescu of Sinaia, which add a valuable contribution by supplying components to the main shell producers.

Despite its many shortcomings, the Rumanian armament industry has in recent years become one of the most important in S.E. Europe.

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4. Aircraft Industry

Rumania before the war possessed a small but active aircraft industry capable of producing about 500 aircraft yearly, which was, however, to a great extent, dependent upon foreign suppliers of aero-engines and aircraft components. There were three airframe factories, one of which also produced engines, output of the latter being sufficient to equip about two-thirds of the aircraft built in the country.

[27a]

CHAPTER XI

463 438 industrial labour. One-third of all workers engaged in industry are independent artisans, on whom the community is dependent for its services, but who do not play any important part in war production. In certain of the larger armament works German controllers have effected a considerable degree of rationalisation.

3. Mining

316 727 There is a shortage of miners; Russian prisoners of war have been employed in mining during 1942. Many miners were reported to have been included in the territory transferred to Hungary.

4. Armament Works

719 464 There is a general shortage of labour in metal and engineering factories, particularly of skilled labour. A 12-hour day was legalised at the beginning of 1942, but it is doubtful if in fact a 12-hour day is ever worked.

5. Timber

313 464 There is a shortage of labour, both for lumbering and for timber manufacture.

6. Textiles and Clothing

464 288 294 The total number of workers in these industries has probably fallen considerably, due to reduction of available raw materials. The delivery of supplies to individual mills seems to be somewhat erratic and there is evidence of considerable part-time work, for instance in a survey of some 43 factories in December, 1942, 11 were working full time, 21 on a reduced scale, and 11 at a very reduced scale.

7. Building

499 712 464 The extent of fortification building and general road and rail construction in Rumania is unknown, but in the second half of 1942 there was evidence of a scarcity of general labour for such projects, and of Russian prisoners of war working on rail construction.

438 464 [759] In the other branches of occupation, transport services, etc., there is no evidence of labour shortage, apart from doctors, many of whom have been mobilised for the army.

D. CONTROL OF LABOUR

1. The Youth Labour Service

466 883 A youth labour service founded on the German model was established in March 1941. The leaders were trained in Germany, but it was only in April 1942 that the labour camps began to function. Youths are called up in their 19th–20th year, and the period of service lasts 7 months.

(*See* Part II, Chapter V.B. for further details.)

2. Civil Mobilisation

466 A general civil mobilisation decree was passed in May 1941 by which (1) employment cards were introduced; (2) men and women aged 20–57 were liable to compulsory employment if not employed.

Two subsequent decrees were published in March and May 1943, one for the reorganisation of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and the second for the reorganisation of industry. Each of these decrees gave full powers to the appropriate authorities for the mobilisation and transfer of labour.

In addition to the general labour decrees which have so far had little influence on the labour situation, there have been regional decrees applying to individual localities, e.g. in Bessarabia, in February 1942, all the inhabitants aged 22–70 were called upon for compulsory agricultural labour unless already employed.